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5-24-77

Rep. Thomas P. O'Neill
House Of Representatives Bldg.
Washington D.C. 20515

Honorable Speaker:

As a working journalist, I would like to lodge an official protest over the conduct in Los Angeles on 5-19-77, of Cliff Fenton Jr. and Kenneth Klien, two investigators for the House Select Committee On Assassinations.

Their actions placed a mans life in deep jeopardy, while destroying his witness potential, and placed me in the position of being an unwilling decoy.

Over the past (approximately) 6 weeks, Mr. Fenton and staff member Jacqueline Hess, had been in touch with me by telephone to try and secure the voluntary appearance of one Loran Hall, before the Subcommittee probing the murder of President Kennedy. Because of my intervention with Mr. Hall, this was achieved.

However, within 72 hours of Mr. Hall's agreement to return for testimony, he received a telephone death threat, an apparent warning from a lieutenant for a major organized crime figure that he not testify.

The threat also indicated a major leak from within the Committee. As a result, Mr. Hall withdrew his offer to appear.

Subsequent dialogue with Ms. Hess of the Committee confirmed that there was indeed a leak, and I was assured that it had been taken care of.

Then on 5-19-77, Mr. Fenton called me and informed me that he and Kenneth Klien, an Assistant Counsel, were in Los Angeles and wanted to speak with me. In my offices, they asked that I try and arrange a meeting between them and Mr. Hall, solely for the purposes of questioning him. Knowing Mr. Hall as I have for some 10 years; I asked Messr's. Fenton and Klein if I could be present during the questioning, if such were requested by Hall. Each man assured me that this would pose no problem.

As expected, Mr. Hall did make that request and I assured him that I would be present

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However, at the start of the meeting in our studios, Mr. Klein asked that I leave the room so that questioning could proceed. I refused and asked that he abide by our earlier agreement. Klein then asked Mr. Hall to ask me to leave. When Hall refused, Investigator Fenton then reached into his briefcase and Presented witness Hall with a subpoena ordering his appearance in Washington D.C. on June 7, 1977, at ten AM.

Mr. Hall told both men that he would honor the subpoena, but promised a polite recitation of the Fifth Ammendment. Hall then called my attention to the fact that said subpoena had in fact been issued in Washington D.C. on 5-13-77, a full six days before its service here in Los Angeles.

In a 5-21 Washington Post story on the matter, reporter George Lardner Jr. quotes Acting Staff Director Tom Lambeth as denying my claim that my presence would be allowed during the interview with Mr. Hall. He also said that Congressman Richardson Preyer had spoken with the investigators and been assured that no such prior agreement had existed.

Respectfully sir, such an agreement did in fact exist and I feel it reprehensible and entirely un-ethical that a newsman be used as a lure by the House Select Committee to achieve their goal.

Their action also had the chilling effect of turning a heretofore cooperative witness into a hostile witness.

Further, their actions placed Mr. Hall's life in extreme jeopardy. After all, they were aware of the previous telephone death threat.

And one must also wonder at the true intentions of these men since they came to Los Angeles with a 6 day old subpoena in hand for a man they said they simply wanted to question.

Such actions are not in keeping with the pursuit of honesty and justice in the death of our dear President, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, and I would hope your office will take whatever action necessary to assure that such conduct is not repeated.

Respectfully,

Art Kevin

Art Kevin - Investigative Reporter, KMPC-GWB

cc: All members of the House Select Committee On Assassinations; Senators Cranston & Hyakawa and selected journalists, nationwide.